

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram – April 2020

Novel Coronavirus Response

We are treating the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with utmost significance. Our first priority is to reliably provide safe drinking water. To do that, we are constantly monitoring system operation, and make sure that we have sufficient supplies and spare parts.

We are avoiding or minimizing all person-to-person contact, and holding board discussions by email and conference calls.

If you need special consideration in paying your water bill or have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the board members listed below.

US Environmental Protection Agency

(Website: Frequently Asked Questions)

Is drinking tap water safe?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the, “presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low.” Additionally, according to the CDC, COVID-19 is mainly thought to spread between people who are in close contact with one another. Read more from the CDC about transmission of COVID-19. Further, EPA’s drinking water regulations require treatment at public water systems to remove or kill pathogens, including viruses.

Budget Ballots

If you have not already done so, please return (by paper or email) your ballot with a vote on the proposed 2020 and 2021 budgets by April 20, 2020. Our Bylaws require an approved budget, so we need your approval.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting (scheduled for April 22, 2020) has been canceled. We will use WaterGrams, email, and the website to communicate with members.

Water Rates Effective May 1, 2020

New rates are posted on the Cooperative website.

Water Conservation

Although we have enough water to meet normal demand, we do not have excess capacity. It is very important that we all make an effort not waste water. Even though not a lot of gallons are involved, just turning off the faucet when tooth brushing can help reinforce a conservation attitude.

Leaks in Distribution System

As you are walking the neighborhood, please watch for possible leaks in our distribution system. Water lines are either under roads or to the side, and a leak may show up as a damp spot or unusual plant growth.

Drip System Startup

Yet another certainty in life is that every irrigation system will have some problems – critter chews, broken tubing, cracked fittings, etc. So, it’s important when you start watering to walk around, looking and listening for what Albuquerque calls “fugitive water”.

With EyeOnWater, you can see your water use, down to the hour, to verify that your irrigation controller is running when and how long you intend. It’s easy to make a mistake and set to run every day instead of, say three times a week, or even run several times each day.

Hose Bib Timers

If you regularly use a garden hose to water, you may want to add a timer to your hose bib. There are simple and inexpensive mechanical and more elaborate electronic timers that can help prevent a major problem and significant water bill. We have seen a number of cases where a hose was inadvertently left running for many days.

Board of Directors

Ray Burgess (719) 233-0168
Jock Embry 771-2330
Glenn Ingram 867-7924
lamesawatercoop.org

Michael Niss 301-4808
Dave Otter 720-1820
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La Mesa Water Cooperative

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La Mesa Water Cooperative

Owned and Operated By and For All Sundance Mesa and La Mesa Homeowners

April 2020

Member Support

- Receive water bill by email: water-bill@lamesawatercoop.org
- Water Cooperative Alert List: alerts@lamesawatercoop.org
- Smart Meters at all houses (331); 261 EyeOnWater Users
- Electronic water bill payment being set up

Water Rates

- Last changed January 1, 2016
- Planned increase about 15%, effective May 1, 2020

Water Supply Current Situation

- Water rights sufficient for full Sundance Mesa and La Mesa build-out
- In use: Wells #5 (5 Calle Cienega) and #6 (Calle Flores East) have sufficient capacity
- Standby: Well #3 (64 Camino Manzano)
- Well #3 exceeds (23 – 28 parts per billion) arsenic limit (10 ppb)
- Don't have reserve capacity if either well #5 or #6 is out for more than 1-5 days

Proposed Well #3 Project

- Status as of April 2020
 - Completed Pilot Test of Adsorption (March - December 2017)
 - Design underway by Wilson & Company
 - Lot split, zoning change, and purchase pending
- Decisions made
 - Plan to update Well #3 (pump, motor, controls) to support entire cooperative
 - Arsenic Treatment Facility at #3 site, using adsorption technology
 - Building size (53' x 40' - ~ 2,120 square feet) and placement
- Decisions yet to be made
 - Building details (exterior light fixtures, landscaping)
 - Construction contractor

More Information / Contacts

- Website: lamesawatercoop.org
 - Checklist to locate leaks
 - Board Meeting Schedule
 - Member Handbook (2019)
 - Water Supply Plan (2018)
- Water Board Meetings (conference call) every month
- board@lamesawatercoop.org
- jock_embry@lamesawatercoop.org